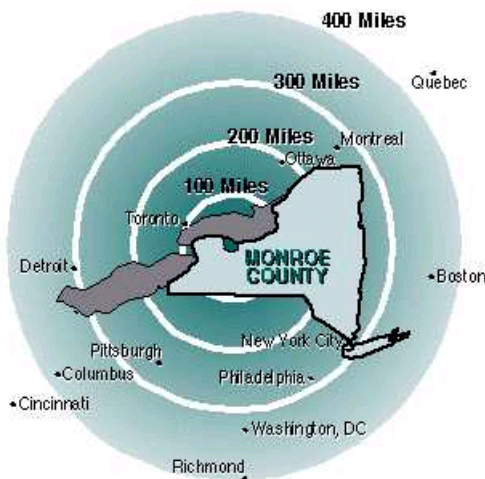




Overview

Monroe County and the City of Rochester are located in western New York State where the Genesee River meets the south shore of Lake Ontario. With its headwaters in the uplands of northern Pennsylvania, the Genesee River drops in elevation almost 300 feet as it flows through Rochester, creating rapids and waterfalls.

Kodak, Xerox and Bausch & Lomb – some of the world's most recognizable names in business – all make their home in Monroe County. As recent as September 2005, *Assembly* magazine named the Xerox Corporation Webster manufacturing facility "Assembly Plant of the Year." The community is also home to growing companies like Paychex, Wegmans and the University of Rochester/Strong Health. In fact, Wegmans has been named one of the "Top 100 Companies to Work For" by *Fortune Magazine* for the last several years. In 2005, Wegmans ranked #1 on the list.



There are a variety of industries that make up the diverse economic culture in Monroe County such as: BioTech, Optics and Imaging, Fuel Cell, Business and Information Services, Food and Beverage, Manufacturing, Telecommunications, Printing and Publishing. In March 2005, *Popular Science* magazine ranked Rochester 19th among 140 of the nation's "Top Tech Cities."

We are a community of innovators on the cutting edge of research and discovery; a community of artists featuring world-renowned performers, a top-flight orchestra and one of the nation's premier schools of music; a community of entrepreneurs home to some of the world's best known brands and fast growing companies.

Creating jobs and enhancing our quality of life continues to be a main objective of area leaders. Monroe County is a great community in America to live, work, visit and raise a family.

Welcome to Monroe County!

Monroe County Today

Monroe County currently has a population of 735,177 residents. A business-friendly infrastructure, a community centered on partnership and collaboration, nationally-ranked colleges and universities, four-season weather, and affordable housing are just a few of the many reasons people come to Monroe County. A strong industrial history and an emphasis on high quality public services – particularly public education – in addition to a large higher education sector ensures a technically-sophisticated and reliable workforce.

Monroe County has an intricate transportation system designed to allow residents the freedom to travel across the County with ease. The average travel time residents spend traveling to work is 19.6 minutes. Multi-modal transportation is also present in Monroe County and is demonstrated by the Greater Rochester International Airport (GRIA), the Port of Rochester, Amtrak and the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority bus service. The Greater Rochester International Airport is the gateway to Rochester for those visiting our area. The newly renovated state-of-the-art facility offers a first and last impression for those who come to our community. The future Renaissance Square is a unique community project that combines a transit center, an urban college campus and a performing arts center in the heart of our Center City.

Nine exceptional colleges and universities provide quality educational opportunities for students from throughout the Greater Rochester area, New York State, the nation and the world. These excellent colleges help to support our local economy and bring a talented workforce of professionals into our community. The University of Rochester Simon School of Business ranked #23 in *US News and World Report* "America's Best Grad Schools", 2006. In addition, four local public high schools ranked in "The 100 Best High Schools in America" (Brighton # 47, Pittsford-Mendon # 39, Pittsford-Sutherland # 78 and Wilson Magnet # 27), *Newsweek*, 2005.

Businesses locating here can benefit from some of the best incentive programs available, including the New York State Empire Zone program. Monroe County offers a wide variety of financing programs and incentive packages for businesses looking to locate or expand here. Additionally, many utility rate incentives and workforce development programs make us very competitive. Large corporations, small companies, and start-up organizations all benefit from our excellent educational resources, knowledgeable workforce, available and convenient infrastructure, and aggressive business incentives while enjoying our outstanding quality of life. In July 2005, *Expansion Management Magazine* ranked Rochester as a five-star business opportunity metro, a premier place for companies to do business in America.

Finally, home ownership is affordable in Monroe County. A wide variety of urban and suburban neighborhoods offer an array of housing options at reasonable prices. From downtown lofts to suburban subdivisions to rural farmhouses, high quality housing is within reach for Monroe County residents. The Greater Rochester Association of Realtors reports that 2004 median home prices for the towns and the City were \$124,900 and \$56,500, respectively, far below the national median of \$184,100. In fact, when compared to other metropolitan areas throughout the country, the Rochester Metropolitan Area ranks among the most reasonably priced.

Economic Profile of Monroe County

Until the last decade, Monroe County was dominated by major manufacturers employing highly skilled workers. As these companies restructured, the workers who left these employers have fueled the growth of numerous small and medium-sized firms in a range of industries. In 1980, only 57% of employment was located in firms of 1000 employees or less, and most of these firms had direct or indirect linkages to major Monroe County firms like Kodak, Xerox or General Motors. By 2000, the share of employment in small and medium-sized firms had risen to 89% (CGR estimates from County Business Patterns data).



Eastman Kodak, Xerox and Bausch & Lomb play an important role in the Monroe County economy. Eastman Kodak has created a \$15 million economic development fund designed to promote business development and job creation in the greater Rochester region. The firm committed \$1 million for the establishment of a new revolving loan fund in Monroe County targeted at projects that have the potential to generate and retain jobs in the Rochester area. Kodak also recently announced that it plans to spend \$45 million on a new factory at Kodak Park that will produce supplies for turning digital images into high-quality photographic prints. In June 2005, Xerox Corporation announced that it will invest \$59 million to build and equip a 120,000 square foot plant in Webster to produce a new specialized toner for printer cartridges. Bausch & Lomb announced plans for a \$35 million facility expansion for new laboratories and office space, which is expected to add up to 200 jobs. Also, the Sentry Group (manufacturer of fireproof safes) chose to move jobs from China to Rochester and add to its 480-person workforce.

The regional economy's future is centered around small and medium-sized firms, including high technology manufacturers like Harris RF Communications and ITT Industries; telecommunications firms like PAETEC; biotech firms such as Vaccinex; information sector firms like Paychex and the Sutherland Group. Monroe County's higher education sector, particularly expansion at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) and the Rochester Institute of Technology, also holds significant promise for the future. In fact, in 2005, *Computerworld*, the "Voice of IT Management," has selected Paychex, Inc. as one of the top 100 workplaces for information technology (IT) professionals.

The most tangible evidence of Monroe County's "output" of scientific innovation is the number of patents issued to inventors living in the Rochester area. Over 7,200 patents were issued to Monroe County inventors between 1995 and 1999, over four times the national average. Among the largest 100 metropolitan areas in the country, the number of patents issued per capita locally was second only to Silicon Valley's San Jose.

International trade by exporters continues to be a significant component of the economic activity of the Monroe County/Rochester area. Exports for 2004 from the Greater Rochester region are estimated at over \$12 billion. Rochester is the second largest exporting area in the state (New York City is the largest). The Monroe County Foreign Trade Zone (MCFTZ) has been a catalyst for local export activity since its establishment in 1987.

Low labor costs combined with an abundant skilled workforce also contributes to Monroe County's excellent business climate. The underlying strength of the Monroe County economy is reflected in its low unemployment rate.

Quality of Life

Monroe County is a stimulating, inventive, metropolitan community, the third-largest urban area in the State of New York. Yet this high-tech community has also preserved its many links with the past as it claims more sites on the National Register of Historic Places than any other city of its size.



Home to the Eastman School of Music, one of the world's leading institutions, Monroe County provides access to a diverse array of visual and performing arts. The Memorial Art Gallery, Strong Children's Museum, Rochester Museum and Science Center, George Eastman House and its world-renowned International Museum of Photography and Film, Rochester has more arts and cultural offerings than almost any city its size.

Monroe County is also home to professional sports teams in baseball, hockey, soccer, lacrosse, and new in 2005, basketball. According to *Street & Smith's Sports Business Journal*, July 2005, Rochester, New York was rated the best minor league sports market in America. We are home to prestigious Oak Hill Country Club – ranked 27th among "Americas 100 Greatest Golf Courses" (Golf Digest, May 2005), and for 29 years the Wegmans Rochester LPGA Tournament at Locust Hill Country Club. Adding to our community's rich golf history is the Xerox Classic hosted for the first time in August of 2005 at Irondequoit Country Club. The annual Xerox Classic is a stop on the Nationwide Tour, the developmental circuit for the PGA.



Four season outdoor recreation opportunities range from sailboat racing and deepwater fishing on Lake Ontario to camping, hunting and skiing in the Bristol Hills to windsurfing and boating on the Finger Lakes. Numerous Finger Lakes wineries boast wines that are among the best in the world. The

climate of the Finger Lakes is particularly well-suited to white wine production.

Monroe County continues to excel and grow as our community moves forward. Our future is bright with promise and opportunity.

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VICE PRESIDENT

Mark J. Cassetti, District 5

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Bill Smith, District 10

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Carla M. Palumbo, District 28

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CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

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Patrick W. Pardyjak

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Andrew G. Moore

STAFF DIRECTOR - DEMOCRATIC MINORITY OFFICE

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District 26 C. Stephen Eckel
District 27 H. Todd Bullard
District 28 Carla M. Palumbo
District 29 José A. Cruz

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Maggie Brooks

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

James P. Smith

ASSISTANT COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jerry J. Helfer

ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICIALS

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Peter M. Quinn, Commissioner

Thomas F. Ferrarese, Commissioner

COUNTY CLERK

Cheryl Dinolfo

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Michael C. Green

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Edward J. Nowak

SHERIFF

Patrick M. O'Flynn

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

AVIATION	Terrence G. Slaybaugh, Director
BOARD OF ELECTIONS	Peter M. Quinn, Commissioner Thomas F. Ferrarese, Commissioner
COMMUNICATIONS	Lawrence Staub, Director
COUNTY CLERK	Cheryl Dinolfo, County Clerk
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	Michael C. Green, District Attorney
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	John E. Graham, Director
FINANCE	Steve Gleason, Chief Financial Officer
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	Patricia Stevens, Commissioner
HUMAN RESOURCES	Brayton M. Connard, Director
INFORMATION SERVICES	Nelson M. Rivera, Chief Information Officer
LAW	Daniel M. DeLaus, Jr., County Attorney
MONROE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	Todd C. Spring, Executive Health Director
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET	Bill Carpenter, Director
PARKS	Frank X. Allkofer, Director
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	Terrence G. Slaybaugh, Director
PUBLIC DEFENDER	Edward J. Nowak, Public Defender
PUBLIC HEALTH	Andrew S. Doniger, M.D., Director
PUBLIC SAFETY	Stephen C. Bowman, Director
SHERIFF	Patrick M. O'Flynn, Sheriff
TRANSPORTATION	Terrence J. Rice, Director
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY	James A. Carra, Director

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

DIRECTOR

Bill Carpenter

STAFF

Wendy Clifford

Anthony Feroce

Delaine George

Mary Lynne Hahn

Sharon Keefe

Kevin Klemann

Jeanne Murphy

We welcome your comments and suggestions about this budget document.

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